



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WO1513HGT		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP 03/02972	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.03.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 15.03.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F16F7/12			
Applicant HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA ET AL.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 10.10.2003		Date of completion of this report 21.06.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - Gitschiner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840		Authorized Officer Krieger, P Telephone No. +49 30 25901-513 	

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-38 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-8 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/26-26/26 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement.

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	5,8
	No: Claims	1-4,6,7
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	8
	No: Claims	1-7
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-8
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet)

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1.1). Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: DE 299 23 774 U (FISCHER ET AL.) 30 August 2001 (2001-08-30)
- D2: US-A-5 041 472 (MYER) 20 August 1991 (1991-08-20)
- D3: DE 38 16 517 A (KELLNER) 23 November 1989 (1989-11-23)

1.2). D1 discloses (see abstract, figures) a skeleton member structure comprising: a skeleton member 1 and porous granular materials 2, wherein a space inside the skeleton member is filled with the granular materials.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

1.2). Relating to the other possibility recited in claim 1, D2 discloses (see abstract, figures) a skeleton member structure comprising: a skeleton member 34,36 and granular materials having hollow portions 12, wherein a space inside the skeleton member is filled with the granular materials.

This subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore also not novel.

2.1). In D1 the granular materials are filled directly into the space. The skeleton member includes a plurality of beams for use on an automobile, see page 1. The structure further comprises second granular materials, adjacent ones of which are bonded to one another by the hollow first granular materials, see figure 3 of D1. The second granular materials comprises solid (e.g. not liquid or gaseous) porous granular materials, see claim 2 of D1.

The subject-matter of claims 2-4, 6 and 7 is therefore not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

2.2). Replacing ceramic or glass hollow granular materials by resin granular materials is a routine measure for the man skilled in the art of composite materials, see claims 1 and 4 of D3. Therefore the subject-matter of claim 5 is not inventive.

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3). The method of claim 8 is new and solves the problem of bonding the granular materials together without a binder by melting the first (resin) granular materials. Therefore this method is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4). Industrial applicability is given in the field of motor vehicles.